



National King Holiday Drum Major Project

[Revised/Updated EDITION 2022]

Community Memo ...

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Checklist for Celebrating the King Holiday

National King Holiday History Notes

- Monday, January 21, 2008 [Jan. 17- 2022]
 - Celebrating the life and works of Dr. Martin L. King Jr.
 - Communities across the nation will in some fashion pay homage to this great American and world Humanitarian.

Holiday History

- The Act of Congress designated the third Monday in January as a national holiday
- The law states as quoted
 -such holiday should serve as a time for Americans to reflect on the principles of racial equality and nonviolent social change espoused by Martin Luther King Jr.

The Challenge

- As we honor Martin
 - We are challenged to seize the moment to make the national holiday activities contribute to strategic action breathing new vitality and energy into the work for empowerment and community building. The questions which set the stages are several.

The Opportunity

- Words of Rev. Millner
 - As I reflect on the legacy of Martin which I find invigorating and personally challenging, I see a number of essential conditions necessary to be met in order to make the Dream a Living Memorial.

Checklist for Celebrating the Holiday

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Activity #1

More Than Reciting “The Dream”

- It is important to see Dr. King as a towering symbol of complex action, hopes and dreams.
- He was truly multi-dimensional in both character and work.

Activity #2

Don’t Pasteurize the Image

- Resist the temptation to reduce Dr. King to acceptable non-critical thoughts which makes no real demand of us.
- We are benefactors of the legacy of Dr. King—black and white.

Activity #3

The Dream

- Dr. King was more than a dreamer.
- He was a doer...risk taker, daring to follow the moral constraints of his convictions.

Activity #4

Appreciate the “Rightness of Fighting for Justice

The father of the modern civil rights movement in the United States, **Martin Luther King** was born 15 January 1929 and died on 4 April 1968. Awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize** in 1964, he died when he was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. There are some of Dr Martin Luther King's famous speeches which immortalized the civil rights movement of the 1960s and still give inspiration today.

- In order for a community to seize the moment to honor Dr. King in a manner that will transform
 - Appreciation and homage must be paid to the “rightness” of the struggle and fight for justice.

Activity #5

Recognizing the Collective Symbolism of Dr. King

- If our celebrating is to have a transforming quality
 - There must be a wholesome and authentic expression of appreciation of the vast contributions of citizens of African descent to making America what it is.

Activity # 6

Black Church as a Vehicle of Social Change

- The black church is unique in its power as a vehicle of social change and liberation.

We must take the church to the marketplace and call the nation to faithfulness to her creed.

Activity #7

Interracial & Interfaith

In a sense all life is interrelated

Let's heed the words of Dr. King

- "The agony of the poor impoverishes the rich; the betterment of the poor enriches the rich."

Activity #8

National Holiday Observance for All

It is important that the holiday honoring Dr. King be taken up with a passion...however, it should not be thought of as a black holiday.

Activity #9

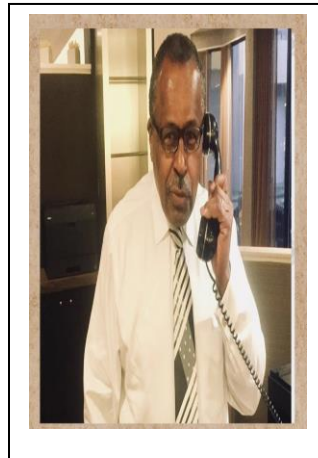
Corporate Score Card

- The King holiday is an appropriate time for corporate America to account for its stewardship when it comes to the fight for racial and social justice.... as well as economic empowerment for the many.

Activity # 10

Faith and Africa

- Celebrating the King Holiday should include a fresh reminder of our heritage "less in our hearts drunk with the wine of the world we forget Thee..." Yes: Commit to be "true to our God....true to our Native Land."



Tyler C. Millner, Sr. Profile

- Co-founder of Community Learning Week
and served as director for 20 years.
- Former executive vice president of Virginia Union University
- Business and education consultant
- Pastor of Morning Star Holy Church, Martinsville, VA.